

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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ATTN: ARA/ECP

EO 11652 NA

TAGS: OREP (JAVITS, JACOB K)

SUBJ: JAVITS' TRIP

REF: STATE 10769

1. SENATOR JAVITS' SCHEDULE HERE INCLUDED BREAKFAST FOR ALMOST TWO HOURS WITH THE PRESIDENT (THE FOREIGN MINISTER, MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT, PRESIDENT OF THE VENEZUELAN INVESTMENT FUND AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF ACCION DEMOCRATICA WERE ALSO PRESENT), CALLS ON THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESS, THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE FEDERAL DISTRICT, DINNER WITH THE LOCAL BANKING COMMUNITY, A SPEECH ON US-LATIN AMERICAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION (OF WHICH THE DEPT HAS A COPY), A PRESS CONFERENCE AND A TAPED TV INTERVIEW--ALL IN ONE WORKING DAY. THE SCHEDULE WAS EXHAUSTING. WE ESTABLISHED IT IN RESPONSE TO THE DEPT'S CABLES SETTING FORTH THE SENATOR'S DESIRES. BUT WE WOULD ADVOCATE A MORE MODEST APPROACH THE NEXT TIME AROUND.

2. THE SENATOR PRIVATELY AND PUBLICLY DEPLORED THE EXCLUSION OF VENEZUELA AND ECUADOR FROM THE GSP IN THE TRADE REFORM ACT. HE TOLD THE VENEZUELAN THAT THE PROBLEM WOULD SURELY BE CORRECTED IN THE CONTEXT OF A "NEW" USG APPROACH TO RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA. THE SENATOR'S THEME THROUGHOUT THE VISIT WAS THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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US IS ABOUT TO TAKE A FRESH LOOK AT THESE RELATIONS. HE

FORESAW GREATER US INTEREST IN LATIN AMERICA, TRIGGERED IN PART BY FRUSTRATION WITH THE UN, AND THE EMERGENCE OF A RELATIONSHIP BASED ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND INTERDEPENDENCE. THE SIGNAL FOR THE NEW ERA IS TO BE THE SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF A PANAMA CANAL TREATY, WHICH THE SENATOR THOUGHT WOULD WIN SENATE RATIFICATION. HE SEEMED TO BE IMPLYING THAT THE GSP PROBLEM WOULD HAVE TO WAIT ON THE PANAMA NEGOTIATIONS, ALTHOUGH THE CONNECTION WAS NOT ALWAYS THAT CLEAR.

3. IN HIS TALK WITH THE PRESIDENT THE SENATOR REFERRED TO THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL INDUSTRIALIZATION INSTITUTE AND AN INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR THE EXCHANGE OF TECHNOLOGICAL INFO. HE SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS A BEGINNING COULD BE MADE BY ESTABLISHING A "TECHNOLOGY BANK" FOR THIS HEMISPHERE ALONE. THE PRESIDENT WAS INTRIGUED WITH THAT IDEA. CARLOS ANDRES ALSO ONCE AGAIN EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL FOR A HEMISPHERE CENTER FOR COMPUTERIZED EXCHANGE OF AGRICULTURAL INFO (THE HOUSTON SPEECH). CONSIDERABLE TIME AT THE BREAKFAST WAS SPENT IN DISCUSSION OF THE LAW SPONSORED BY THE SENATOR FOR THE REFORM OF PRIVATE PENSION SYSTEMS IN THE US. THE PRESIDENT SAID HE WOULD BE INSTRUCTING THE VENEZULAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO OBTAIN DETAILED INFO ON THE LAW FROM THE SENATOR'S OFFICE.

4. MINISTER OF FINANCE HURTADO TOLD THE SENATOR THAT DELAYS IN THE CONGRESS ON THE IDB CHARTER AMENDMENTS POSED A THREAT TO THE BANK'S CAPACITY TO RAISE ADEQUATE NEW CAPITAL. NEITHER THE SENATOR NOR THE AMBASSADOR HAD ENOUGH INFO ON THE SUBJECT TO COMMENT INTELLIGENTLY.

5. THE SENATOR BORE DOWN HARD ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEM IN CHILE AND BRAZIL. HE TOLD OSWALDO ALVAREZ PAZ, THE ACTING PRESIDENT OF THE CONGRESS, THAT JUST AS THE "TEST" FOR THE US IS IN THE PANAMA CANAL, SO THE TEST FOR THE LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN THOSE COUNTRIES. THE SENATOR APPEARED TO BE UNINFORMED ABOUT THE ACTIVITIES OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION IN THIS AREA. FROM THE VENEZUELAN SIDE THE RESPONSE TO HIS APPEAL FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION WAS INVARIABLY NONCOMMITTAL.

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6. THE SENATOR'S PRIVATE INTERVIEWS AND PUBLIC APPEARANCES HERE WERE MARKED BY GOOD HUMOR AND GOOD WILL ON BOTH SIDES. THE ONLY EXCEPTION WAS A CLOSED OFF-THE-RECORD MEETING ARRANGED ON THE NIGHT OF THE SENATOR'S ARRIVAL BY THE LOCAL ADELA OFFICE WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VENEZUELAN PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE MEDIA. HERE THERE WERE SOME RATHER VIGOROUS EXCHANGES ON THE SPECTER OF A US RETREAT INTO ISOLATIONISM, THE JUSTICE OF THIRD-WORLD DEMANDS, OPEC AND THE OIL PRICE. THE SENATOR SPOKE

WITH CANDOR AND FORCE BUT WAS UNFORTUNATELY TREATED ON A FEW OCCASIONS WITHOUT THE COURTESY HE DESERVES. MISUNDERSTANDINGS WERE SUBSEQUENTLY CLEARED UP AND THE MEETING HAD NO NEGATIVE EFFECT ON THE VISIT AS A WHOLE. THE SENATOR MAY NOT CHOOSE TO MENTION THIS PARTICULAR INTERLUDE TO THE SECRETARY.

7. WE JUDGE THE VISIT OVERALL TO HAVE BEEN A SUBSTANTIAL SUCCESS. THE SENATOR CAME THROUGH TO THE VENEZULANS AS CANDID, SINCERE AND SYMPATHETIC. HIS STATEMENTS ON THE PANAMA CANAL AND THE NEED FOR COOPERATION RATHER THAN CONFRONTATION ON INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES STRUCK RESPONSIVE CHORDS HERE. FOR HIS PART WE THINK THE SENATOR LEFT WITH AN ACCURATE IMPRESSION OF VENEZUELAN OBJECTIVES AND SENSITIVITIES.

8. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE SENATOR AND HIS AIDE CARRIED ON SEPARATE AND RATHER EXTENSIVE CONVERSATIONS AT DINNER WITH REINALDO FIGUEREDO ABOUT THE IMF MEETING IN JAMAICA. WE DID NOT HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO FIND OUT WHAT WAS SAID.
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